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HAND DELIVERED

Dear Governor Evers,

I have a request to make of you that is of paramount urgency.

Following last night's tragic shooting in Kenosha, tensions are high and it is my understanding that large numbers of Wisconsinites are planning to rally in our state's capital tonight. In order for everyone to be able to exercise their First Amendment rights peacefully and effectively, and out of an abundance of caution, I ask that you call in the National Guard to protect the Capitol.

Following demonstrations in June that turned into riots, you and I spoke about the violence that erupted, the damage done to some of our state's symbols, and the destruction of businesses in the surrounding area. I thank you for taking the time to speak to me then, and, as we sadly find ourselves in a similarly strained situation, I appreciate you taking the time to hear me out once more.

When we spoke, you mentioned to me that you believe it is not the duty of the National Guard to be present on the Capitol grounds to prevent violence. I want to remind you that Wis. Stat. 321.39 allows for the governor of the state of Wisconsin to order members of the Wisconsin National Guard into active duty in case of "riot ... or resistance to the execution of the laws of the state of Wisconsin." A full list of circumstances for when you can call the National Guard into active duty can be found [here](#). I acknowledge and appreciate that you have worked with Kenosha County to guarantee a National Guard presence in their communities tonight. I urge you to work with Dane County and the City of Madison to ensure safety precautions are taken there prior to tonight's gatherings, but if for some reason they are reluctant to act, you are authorized to act alone and you do not need to wait for Madison or Dane County to request this assistance.

I have already shared my concerns about your views on what the National Guard's role could and should be in circumstances where protests turn violent. The presence of the National Guard on Capitol grounds is a deterrent to violence in and of itself, and will enable protesters to freely and safely express their thoughts, emotions and feelings on last night's events.

I have always supported and encouraged peaceful, non-violent protesting. Unfortunately, as we saw earlier this summer, the unacceptable and horrific violent transgressions of a few can effectively drown out the peaceful call for action of many more.

I implore you to be proactive and call in the National Guard to protect the Capitol, its people, and its heritage, so tonight's gathering may remain a protest, and not turn into a destructive riot.

Thank you again for your time,

Mary Felzkowski

Mary Felzkowski
35th Assembly District Representative